

SECRET

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR:

THE PRESIDENT

JUN 9 1971

FROM:

HENRY A. KISSINGER

SUBJECT:

Coups Rumors in Peru

(Signed) HK

[redacted] elements in the Peruvian Armed Forces may be seeking to remove President Velasco in the near future. There are indications that former Minister of the Interior, General Armando Artola, may be involved in the plotting. Artola himself returned abruptly to Lima Monday after only one week of what was to be several weeks of vacation in the US and Europe. No explanation was offered for his hasty return. Artola was forced out of office by Velasco in a recent cabinet shuffle (after he made the political blunder of detaining a popular Bishop). Artola, like Velasco, is strongly nationalistic, statist-oriented, but reportedly anti-communist.

There have been growing economic and political problems in Peru, as well as some indications of increasing dissention in the military. Thus, Velasco's position could be less solid than outward appearances indicate. Any change which might take place, however, is more likely to be an institutional one rather than a coup brought off by a group of individuals acting on their own behalf.

[redacted]

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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ACTION
June 3, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: DR. KISSINGER
FROM: ARNOLD NACHMANOFF
SUBJECT: Coup Rumors in Peru

Attached for your signature at Tab A is an information memorandum from you to the President on recent reports that a coup may be in the wind in Peru. Until recently, Velasco seemed firmly in the saddle, but he has been experiencing growing economic and political pressures as well as increased dissention in the armed forces. The armed forces might conclude that the time has come to dispense with him but any change is likely to be an institutional one.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the memo to the President at Tab A.

Attachment:

Tab A - Memo to the President

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